

The regiment captured 7 officers and 380 men that day, captured 6 artillery pieces, 4 machine guns and 2 mortars, as well as a lot of military equipment, limbers, horses and harnesses. The own loss amounted to 2 officers 100 men, of which 35 were killed.

Everywhere the thrust had succeeded brilliantly; the Russian, who had been in permanent positions, was utterly defeated, and retreated into the woods. With that, the whole Kerensky offensive collapsed. The regiment had again contributed in no small part to the success. A message was sent from the battlefield to the high chief, to which Her Royal Highness replied, among other things, the following:

"It was very moving for me to be able to experience so much of what has happened to you and my dear regiment in rapid succession in an eventful and meaningful way through your news. By taking part in one of the most important tasks that our incomparable army is now faced with, a new page of patriotic successes has opened up, and the July days in the East with the breakthrough through the enemy front will remain unforgettable for our Augusta regiment. A very gracious telegram from H.M. the Kaiser after greeting the regiment with words of highest appreciation for what had been achieved made me very happy. Yes, another step has been taken in this mighty war, and at the end of the 3rd year of the war my dear regiment played a significant part in the glorious achievements that, God willing, bring us closer to peace, true to its tradition in ever the same Firmness, bravery and loyalty. My grateful prayer greets and accompanies you all with admiration, always the same warmth of feeling."

The Russian army report of the same day states: "Our defeat is explained by the fact that, influenced by the agitation of the Marimalists, many units which received orders to support the detachments attacked held meetings and discussed whether they should obey the order should afford. The efforts of the commanders and committees were unsuccessful."

The German army group was now to push south between Zlota Lipa and Sereth. The 2nd Guards Division had the task of forming the Flantzenschutz for this movement.

The regiments were therefore replaced by Austrian troops in the positions taken and marched along the Sereth via Ratysze on July 20th. The enemy still put up little resistance in a few places. In the night from the 21st to the 22nd we went close to Tarnopol. A few days followed

XXX

of the trench warfare on the Sereth, which consisted of relatively harmless skirmishes between the sentries. Patrols swam to the other bank and brought back booty. As the leader of such a patrol, Vice Sergeant Flick was particularly distinguished. Another time, Sergeant Bungert led three people across, who carefully crawled through the reeds and found the enemy trenches. Then a man was wounded. Despite the fire, Bungert took him on his back and happily brought him back.

On July 25 Tarnopol fell.

The next day His Majesty inspected the parade of the victorious troops on the Tarnopol road. In addition, the 1st Battalion under Major Ulbrich had stepped in.

On August 3rd the regiment was again relieved by Austrians and moved into resting quarters in the Zloczow area; the regimental headquarters was in Zalesie. Large bonfires lit up the still night all around, and the old hymn of Leuthen was heard again, with which the happy victors thanked the Lord of hosts.

On August 10th the regiment drove from Zloczow via Rawa-Ruska-Cholm-Grodno to Ponjewisch, where it arrived on the evening of the 13th. The machine gun crews had to atone for an "attack" on an apple woman during the train journey with a seven-day vacation ban imposed by the commander.

During the battle of Tarnopol the officer corps was composed as follows:

Regiments-Kommandeur: Oberstlt. v. Struensee,

Adjutant: Oblt. v. Bernuth,

Ord.-Offz.: Lt. Frhr. Raitz v. Frentz,

Verkehrs-Offz.: Lt. Sühning,

M.-G.-Offz.: Oblt. v. Scheele,

Sas-Offz.: Lt. Scholtz (Kurt),

Regts.-Arzt: St.-A. Dr. Eckard.

I. Bataillon: Major Ulbrich; Hptm. Prinz zu Ysenburg; Lt. v. Weber Hptm. Wild;

Ass.-A. Se

Zahlm. Will.

1. Comp.: Lt. Stellmacher; Lt. Jäger (Karl), Lt. Nenno; Feldw. Lipski.

2. Comp.: Lt. Scholtz (Konrad); Lt. Emden; Lt. Witt; Feldw. Scholz.

3. Comp.: Lt. Engelhardt; Lt. Scheffler; Lt. Schwickert; Lt. Böse; Feldw. Klaassen.

4. Comp.: Lt. Siebert; Lt. Rittershaus; Lt. Engert; Lt. Hasselbusch; Feldw. Fuge.

1. M.-G.-K.: Lt. v. Spangenberg; Lt. Albanus; Lt. Werner; Feldw. Werner.

M.-W.-Abt.: Lt. Engel.

aM —

II. Bataillon: Major v. Voß; Lt. Gr. Kielmannnsegg; Flt. Martin;

Ob.-A. Girmindl;

Zahlm. Lohmann.

5. Comp.: Lt. Fiedler; Lt. Winkler; Feldw. Scholz.

6. Comp.: Lt. Schäfer; Lt. Becker; Lt. Schranz; Feldw. Hoffmann.

7. Comp.: Lt. Rüssel; Lt. Jäger (Bernhard); Feldw. Lolk.

8. Comp.: Lt. Kuhn; Lt. Boller; Feldw. Berkigt.

2. M.-G.-K.: Lt. v. Klitzing; Lt. Pröls; Lt. Reichmuth; Feldw. Erdmann.

2. M.-W.-Abt.: Lt. Nadermann; Lt. Wilkens.

Füsilier-Bataillon: Hptm. Glodkowski; Lt. Widera; Lt. Dietershagen;

St.-A. Dr. Eckard; Zahlm. Kiefner.

9. Comp.: Lt. Kienast; Lt. Angermann; Feldw. Rüger.

10. Comp.: Oblt. Möhring; Lt. Klemunt; Lt. v. Pannewitz; Feldw. Schüppler.
11. Comp.: Lt. Gaul; Lt. Schäfers; Lt. Blomentamp; Lt. Franke; Feldw. Thormann.
12. Comp.: Lt. Klein; Lt. Beßrich; Lt. Blömker; Feldw. Christensen.
3. M.-G.-K.: Lt. v. Hillebrandt; Lt. Reh; Lt. Hardrat; Feldw. Sommerfeld.
3. M.-W.Abt.: Lt. Hoth.

The capture of Riga.
September 1-5, 1917.

Despite the extreme demands on the Western theater of war, the High Command had decided to deal a new blow to the Russian Empire with the divisions available in the East. For this purpose, a Düna crossing near Riga was planned, which promised a particularly large success because of the proximity of Petersburg. The 8th German Army under Generalleutnant v. Hutier over the island of Borkowitz and at Uexküll over the Düna.

The regiment was unloaded and accommodated in Ponjewisch on August 13th. Over the next few days there were exercises in translating across the 20 meter wide Lawena. It turned out that only a third of the teams could swim. Eagerly practiced on ladders, which should represent pontoons.

On the 21st news had come that the division was to be loaded that same evening for Verdun, where the French had attacked on a broad front—then evening came

XXX

the order that the advance on the Duna was to begin the next morning. The companies immediately gave a triple cheer to the brave defenders of the western front.

In the next few days the regiment marched through beautiful Courland in the best of spirits; the path led past Bauske with its old German knight's castle. On August 29, the Werzin camp was reached south-east of Riga.

Here on the 30th the final preparations for the planned company were made. Cards were issued and the transition discussed in detail. From the tall towers in the forest one could see the Russian positions across the Duna.

The first enemy position stretched along the bank in three lines, the third of which appeared to be the most heavily fortified and manned with canted machine guns. An obstacle in the water was to be expected on the east bank. Of late the Russians had become more alert and restless. They had brought in reinforcements and were determined to hold the positions. It was not an easy task to cross the broad river with such strong fortifications!

After the order to attack, the regiment should then go to the Alexander regiment across the Duna and take possession of the second Russian position at Penakungs. Lieutenant Colonel Bruchmüller, now generally known under the name "Breakthrough Müller", gave a lecture on the activity of the artillery on the day of the attack, which convinced everyone that the transition had to succeed. An extraordinarily large number of batteries and mortars were deployed. At 4 o'clock in the morning the gas fire was to begin, at 6 o'clock the effective fire against the first and second enemy positions with their batteries. After three hours 10 minutes the transition should begin. The regimental command for the transition was given by Lieutenant Colonel v. Struensee discussed in detail with all sub-leaders. Before the departure on the evening of August 31, warm food was distributed and breakfast was given; the field kitchens carried provisions for three days.

Shortly after midnight the battalions set out from their camps to be prepared near Rehbrücke to the places marked on the map. The troops moved silently in the forest; the wheels of the vehicles and the bulwark were wrapped with straw to avoid any noise. Although the regiment's approach route was under fire, the battalions got to their destinations without casualties, where they dug in at dawn.

While the artillery enveloped the enemy positions in smoke and smoke, the infantry lay in the woods awaiting the signal to advance. Chains were ready to bring the battalions out of the forest in time. At 9 o'clock the first parts of the regiment moved down to the Duna, to a spot just below Elster Island; the river was about 400 meters wide here. Pioneers had brought out the pontoons hidden in the bushes, and now a lively activity began. A pontoon was assigned to each train; incessantly the pioneers rowed back and forth. Everyone wanted to be there first, and with loud shouts of joy everyone jumped waist-deep into the cool autumnal water towards the vehicles.

The artillery had so covered the enemy that he no longer made any attempt to disturb the crossing. The garrison of the first trenches surrendered almost without resistance to the front stormtroopers.

Immediately after the crossing, the regiment assembled west of Uexküll. It was to advance through the Alexander regiment and take the second Russian position in the sharpest pursuit. The 6th and 7th companies under Lieutenant v. Scheele should be there
XXX

act as flank protection along the Uexküll-Riga line. Visible from afar, the blue Augusta flag was hoisted on a long pole.

The companies encountered no more serious resistance in the patrol ordered; the machine guns took effective fire from discharging nuts at 600 yards. At 12 noon the heights north of Penakung were reached by the forward companies. Then the battalions regrouped and advanced as one on the road to Riga to the Akkermann area. Despite the difficult terrain, it was possible to keep artillery and infantry in contact even during the advance. The foremost line was identified by red and white panels and flares; in addition, flamethrowers, which sent flames visible from afar into the sky, were used to designate the front line.

At about 6 o'clock in the evening the order for the transition to rest came. The Fusilier Battalion secured at Akkermann, reconnaissance was advanced even further. The conquered positions were set up for sustained defence. Everywhere there were signs of the hasty flight of the Russians; stuffed, steaming field kitchens stood about, assigned to the hungry grenadiers. Among the Russian baggage there was a great deal of brand new linen, in which the crews ran around in the dark like white ghosts. Then everything lay on the damp earth; Mists rose from the boggy ground and soon enveloped the weary victors.

In their midst stood the day's booty: 15 artillery pieces, several machine guns and four red Kerensky flags.

September 2nd.

But a tough day of fighting was yet to come.

According to the reports received, the enemy was holding their third position. Therefore, the attack on this last defense of Riga was ordered. At the same time, other divisions were to push north and east to force the Russians to abandon Riga and their bridgehead to the west.

In the morning the regiment advanced through bush and forest and meadow to Amalienhof. The Flüsilierrbataillon received from Gips-Br. forth fire; it developed, and the regimental commander deployed the I Battalion to extend it on the left. At 11 o'clock in the morning parts of the 9th Company took the Gypsum Brigade, which had formed a representation of the Russians.

The attack on the main position was to take place at 2 p.m. after an hour's artillery preparation. as

— 208 —

Gut Amalienhof was designated as the entry point for the right wing of the Augusta regiment, the Alexander*** and Franz regiments then advanced to the right and left. The commander ordered that the 2nd Battalion with the 11th and 12th companies under Captain Glodkowski had to carry out the attack on the estate and to the north, while the 1st Battalion with the 9th and 10th companies under Major Albrich had to attack further south Knope had to prepare.

The artillery fire was prolonged until 2:00 p.m.; 213 companies lined up. Soon the infantry fire flared up, but the firing lines advanced at a leisurely pace. The railway embankment north-east of Kurtenhof was crossed; The enemy fire grew stronger and stronger—nothing can be seen—only the whirring of the infantry shells betrays that the enemy is there. The companies continued to work their way through the confusing forest terrain; now they were met with heavy machine-gun fire. The attack was carried forward a bit with the greatest pluck. Lieutenant Boese was one of the first to be seriously wounded by a shot in the abdomen; he awaited death when he was fully conscious, still cheering on his grenadiers with his never-failing sense of humour. Kalnin was stormed on the right wing, and a Russian regimental staff was taken prisoner there; Here Lieutenant Gaul distinguished himself with shock troops of the 11th Company, excellently supported by the mine throwers under Lieutenant Nadermann.

But the enemy earthworks were very difficult to detect, particularly heavily wired and intact. In them lay so-called "death battalions", consisting of people from the brave tribe of Latvians. The attack came to a standstill on both sides of Gut Amalienhof. The regiment commander went to Kalnin and made new orders from there. Captain Prince Ysenburg now led on the right, followed by Captain Glodkowski and on the left Major Ulbrich. The firefight dragged on until the evening without making any real progress. The estate itself remained unoccupied by friend and foe. A machine gun of the 2nd machine gun company was lying close in front of it, the gun commander of which had been slightly wounded the day before by a shot in the head and was wearing a bandage instead of a helmet; it shone far into the open field and was a special target for the Russians - but the brave rifleman remained steadfast at his post.

The Russians also repeated their fire raids at night. At least the associations could be reorganized and the field kitchens used.

Although the regiment had not reached its objective that day, it had gained a good piece of ground, five officers

— 209 —

grace and captured 60 Russians. The bitter firefight had cost many victims; the regiment lost 100 Augustans wounded and dead; among the wounded were Lieutenants Stellmacher and Hasselbusch.

The capture of the city.

On the morning of September 3, the fire revived. After a heavy fire attack at [[880 o'clock the firing died down rather suddenly; soon it became noticeably quiet, advancing patrols received no more fire - the Russians had recommended themselves in exactly the same way as [[win already knew it from 1915!

The battalions gathered and began to pursue. Since enemy armored cars were reported, the machine gun vehicles under Lieutenant v. Klitz ahead. After a short rest near Reckow, the advance to the northern part of Riga began. A woman said that Riga had been abandoned by the Russians. Then Lieutenant v. Klitzing into town with three riders, loaded pistol in hand. First, a few still shy residents showed up, then more, and finally the whole street was black with [[Rigensers, who burst out with never-ending hoorays and welcomes. Likewise led! lieutenant v Scheele a hussar patrol into the city early by other means.

The battalions reached the first houses in Riga at the exit to Hinzenberg at around 5 a.m. and were enthusiastically welcomed by the population; only a few stragglers were still hanging around, while the enemy sent a few heavy farewells from Dünamünde.

In the evening the battalions moved in. Joy and jubilation permeated everyone at the sight of this great German city. It was still burning in a few places; the Russians had plundered shops and set fire to houses and magazines before they left. Now the inhabitants breathed a sigh of relief; they jubilantly greeted the liberators, hugging and kissing them in their heart's delight. The streets [[were emblazoned with flags*** and flowers. In the evening candles burned in all the windows. "When is the Emperor coming?" asked hundreds. Lovely girls adorned the German warriors; the mother tongue sounded wonderful after the days of wild and hard fighting.

Many friendships were made with the innkeepers over the next few days. In the morning the sights were visited, the castle, the cathedral, the knight's house. From the tower of the Petrikirche there was a wonderful view of the Baltic Sea, where German warships were already anchored. The Balts proudly showed their guests around everywhere. In the afternoon the military bands played; when the Augusta chapel with the chorale "Nun

= 210 —

thank you all God" began, as thousands of listeners sang along with bare heads to the old song. Festive activity soon developed on the streets and squares, especially in the Schützenhaus garden.

The fusilier battalion had to carry out an advance to Dünamünde, where it captured large supplies.

On September 5th, His Majesty visited the liberated city in glorious imperial weather. Never-ending hurrahs rang out, his car was showered with flowers. To alleviate the greatest need, the Emperor donated 100,000 marks to the city.

The next day there was a big imperial parade on the square in front of the cathedral. Upon arrival, the Emperor thanked them in a lengthy speech that touched on the overall situation. When he approached the regimental commander while pacing the front. he shook his hand and said: "You have to my regret. still had many casualties on September 2nd; how much?" — "This morning I was at the spot near Amalienhof where the regiment fought on the 2nd and found a few dead Augustans. Were the fights hard? How

did the Russians fight? On behalf of the Grand Duchess, I should send you my warmest greetings. I promised my aunt not to forget it. Please wire her about it. I owe my royal thanks to the regiment, which has once again proven itself to be so loyal."

Having said this, the Emperor went on gravely. He scrutinized everything closely, nothing escaped his military gaze. Pride shone in the eyes of the grenadiers after this beautiful feat of arms.

Then came the parade in trains, with His Majesty continuing the conversation with the regiment commander: "How is the mood in the regiment? Do you know you're coming west? How is the [[replacement? The guard must also, now, excel in everything. The situation in the West is serious; hold out faithfully! The artillery effect has increased. Do you have enough light machine guns? Where do you find them today? Excellent parade march!"

From all these sentences one can see how the emperor's heart beat for his troops and how well informed he was.

After the Emperor had spoken to the delegations of the Baltic knights, he departed to the roaring shouts of the Rigans and the troops.

On September 8th, all the battalions marched through the city as one with Musil, bedecked with flowers and cheered; the infantry crossed the blown railway bridge, the vehicles on ferries across the Dina; then it went on the big one

— 211 —

road back to Mitau. During a rest, the Emperor overtook the regiment, and later also Prince Leopold of Bavaria and Prince Heinrich of Prussia. After 26 kilometers of marching, the Wehrmannsruh camp was reached just behind the old German position.

The fall of Riga dealt a fresh blow to the Russian Empire, which was soon to collapse completely.

Rest at Charleville. September 15-23, 1917.

On September 9th the regiment was loaded at the small station in Zauke and drove via Mitau-Grodno-Bialystok-Schneidemühl-Berlin-Aachen-Liège to Charleville, where it was unloaded on September 15th and 16th.

The train journey through Germany always awakened my love for my homeland; how gratifying it was to see that the fighting at the front saved the country from the terrible horrors of war itself, and that the populace could go about their work quietly and peacefully. And never is that clearer to the German than when he comes from abroad: No country can match you in its beauty, you German fatherland; and [[no tribe on earth is like you, you German people, in your serious diligence, your measured calmness, your cheerful cheerfulness!

The regiment was quartered in and around Charleville in very good quarters. Only food was scarce at this time. Then the grenadiers sang:

"In 1917, when the cabbage steam (hunger) was great, the Augustans were fed

With jam bread;

Noon beets,

dry bread in the evening;

What else is left for us —

We die a hero's death!"

"And they laugh at the same time" was the repetition at the end of the verse.

It was at this time that the first signs of indiscipline began to appear. Already during the journey ten people had disappeared at the Berlin suburban train stations. Two men came to the regiment without any belongings, but deserted again the next day. They had fallen victim to agitators at home who persuaded them that the quickest way to end the war would be if as many soldiers as possible refused to obey. The Alsace-Lorraine were also a great concern. About 50 asked for the

-- 212 --

relocation to the eastern front. The regimental commander questioned them individually for their reasons, to which they mostly replied that they no longer wanted to fight their "compatriots". In reality they only went east because the war there seemed less dangerous to them. The transfer was granted to them.

On September 17, the leader of the army group, His Imperial Highness the Crown Prince, visited the regimental headquarters in his quarters. He had the commander report in detail on the fighting near Tarnopol and Riga, congratulated the regiment in his warmest way on the great successes and said goodbye with the words: "Of course the regiment will be deployed again in a difficult place, that gives the special trust to division. Hold your ground!" The Grand Duchess also honored the regiment with gracious letters in which she expressed her sympathy for the regiment's deeds in moving words and commemorated the fallen heroes. She personally added the words "In gratitude" to the dictated letter.

On September 18th, the regiment was able to present the golden cross of merit for bravery to two particularly deserving and brave non-commissioned officers: the vice sergeants Wienands and Judzent. The joy about this very rare award was great.

Gradually the regiment established itself; Sporting and bathing spots were selected, and light duty soon resumed. With glorious September weather in the beautiful Maas Valley, the days were a real time to relax.

On September 21, the recruit battalion of the 2nd Guards Division in Nouzon, which had been excellently trained by Major-Houben [?], was inspected. Lieutenant Gläßner was particularly good at educating the young men of the Augustan company and inculcating the old traditions in them.

In the last days of the rest period, the regiment was trained by the commander in short, closed drills and in exercises together with the auxiliary weapons.

So the regiment, well prepared for the new fighting, left on September 23 for the front of the 7th Army in Laon.

The Battle of Laffaux Corner. September 24 — October 25, 1917.

Artillery combat on both sides of the Laon-Soissons road had increased in strength since September 18th. Several new French divisions had also been established here in the first place. So the long-awaited enemy attack seemed imminent. The French intended the furthest reentrant arc of the

--213--

to break through the German front and thereby bring relief to the English, who were fighting hard in Flanders.

The regiment had marched straight from the Laon war ramp to the crowded quarters in and around Mons. It was referred to Group Bailly and from there to the 103rd Infantry Division. From her it received the order to take over the "Hans" section, the left half

of Infantry Regiment 71, with two battalions in the Malmaison-Ferme area that same night. Two battalions had to be accommodated in one sector; Accordingly, defense and housing had to be reorganized.

The position had been much fought over and was therefore in poor condition. There were two ditches, each with a 4 meter wide obstacle. In the second ditch there was a complete lack of shelters; all the other buildings were also not up to the bombardment. Placing reserves in large caves brought serious dangers. The main disadvantage of the position was that behind the second ditch it fell into a valley which stretched as far as Chavignon, so that after the loss of the foremost position no new knees of resistance could be found. Therefore, there was a complete lack of artillery positions. The situation was bound to become very difficult if the enemy broke through to the regiment on the right and then swung into the valley. Nevertheless, the 7th Army did not want to give up all resistance from the outset by evacuating the arch, as recommended by the Supreme Army Command.

The section to be occupied by the regiment was 1,600 meters long and the front trench was just south of the Damenweg. The II. and Fusilier Battalion occupied the sections "Hans rechts" and "Hans links" with two companies each in the front line. The 1st Battalion was in Mons, the regimental headquarters in a large dugout at the south-west exit of Chavignon. The 71st Regiment was on the right, and the Franz Regiment on the left, which was placed under the 5th Guards Division.

The enemy was opposite at 150-300 meters. Enemy artillery and mine activity was initially low.

Nevertheless, as everywhere else, the regiment immediately made preparations to be able to withstand large-scale attacks here as well. Immediately, with great zeal, the construction of the shelters, both in the positions and in the villages, began. In the second ditch enough shelters were begun for the stand-by to get out of the caves; it was possible to pull out all the parts by the day of the great battle, except for the company in the Thuringian cave, which was then also captured there without being able to fire a shot. The machine gun nests have been completely relocated; they were

-- 214 --

installed in due places in grenade craters. Every night the wire obstacles were repaired and widened, and a new hidden obstacle was drawn in front of the artillery barrage. Blockade fire chains and runner posts were set up. The reserves reconnoitred the routes to the first trench for a counter-attack. The regimental engineer company was used as a unit for certain urgent work.

The regiment's defense order allowed fighting for the first trench instead of fighting in the first trench. However, it was particularly emphasized that if the enemy penetrated the first ditch, the rear detachments were to rush forward without orders and attack the enemy with their naked arms. In doing so, they should proceed on the heights along the section borders and, if possible, flank the enemy who has broken through.

From the end of September French air activity increased and artillery became more active; the fire showed that the enemy had zeroed in well.

The battalions took turns, so that each was twelve days in front and six in reserve. The rest battalion and baggage moved to Chivy.

Regimental adjutant became Lieutenant Frhr at this time. Raitz v. Frenz; Lieutenant v. Bernuth (Felix) took over the position of machine gun officer at the staff. lieutenant v Scheele was transferred to the headquarters of the 1st Army.

Our own artillery took up the fire vigorously. At night, too, it disrupted the enemy's preparations for the attack by firing on the rear communications.

Sure signs of the impending attack soon appeared.

Enemy fire increased in the first days of October. In brief fire raids, the enemy checked whether the battery groups were properly trained. Heavy fire was also aimed at Chavignon. The regiment had 1-2 dead and 8-10 wounded daily.

Our own patrols went every night to the enemy obstacle; they ruled the forecourt. During this time, particularly dashing patrols were conducted by Sergeant Schnorr with people from the 1st Company, Deputy Sergeant Klein with those from the 6th Company, Deputy Sergeant Hachmeister of the 7th, Lieutenant Andresen of the 8th, Deputy Sergeant Judzent of the 11th and Lieutenant {sic} Becker of the 12th .Company. French patrols did not venture out; even the foremost enemy trenches were found empty in places.

In the next time the French systematically destroyed the obstacle in front of the first German trench with artillery,

-- 215 --

the clearest sign of the approaching storm. The companies could only repair the obstacle at night with difficulty.

In mid-October, due to heavy downpours, fighting on both sides abated for a short time; the ditches silted up; they were partly full of water.

Then heavier calibers appeared; Agents reported that the villages behind the front were lined with troops.

On October 16, Major v. Voss was in command at the regimental sector; on the right was the Fusilier Battalion Glodkowski, on the left the 1st Battalion Wilk. The 2nd Guards Division had taken command of the Augusta and Franz sections. To the right of the regiment was the 13th Infantry Division, with the 15th Infantry Regiment deployed on the adjacent wing.

On October 17, the fire suddenly swelled to great strength, and new heavy calibers up to 28 centimeters also appeared. In the course of the day a large number of shelters were shot in, the first ditch was leveled in parts, the losses grew more and more; the Augustans experienced terrible days.

At night, work was done feverishly to repair the damage once the fire subsided for a short time.

The next day the same artillery battle was repeated; this time the fire was particularly directed against the second trench and the German batteries, which received heavy fire. Canyons and valleys were gassed.

Private Ströher writes about these days: "I had occupied a sapp with 8 men and was only 40 meters away from the enemy. I was to keep the job for three days, then I would be relieved, that was my order. Hand grenades and rifle grenades flew back and forth, and it was no longer possible to distinguish between the shot and the impact; the mountains rumble and tremble under the impact of heavy mines and shells. The whole valley is shrouded in smoke and gas. Soldiers can be seen swarming in the French trench. A new attack seemed imminent. I called in our destroyer fire with yellow flares, but the guards standing behind couldn't see the signs. Our planes flew 50 meters over our sappa; I signaled them with aviator towels; I had hoisted the flag of Artillerie on a mighty tree; the airmen signaled the signs back.

Then suddenly our devastating fire started against the first French trench; a 30.5 centimeter shell went right into the enemy sap, the splinters flew over to us. Individual Frenchmen were seen running back screaming over cover. Thus the attack of the enemy was held down."

— 216

On the fourth day Ströher had to evacuate his Sapp when the enemy started to attack, but the post on the hill was reoccupied by an immediate counterattack under Lieutenant Emden. It was very difficult for the conduct of the battle that the means of communication failed during the constant shelling: the telephone lines were shot up, the light signals did not get through the smoke and smoke, the regimental radio stations were too weak; the runners got gassed; frequent replacement of these people was the only help.

On the evening of the 19th, after heavy bombardment throughout the day, the enemy directed an attack against the right neighbor, the 15th Infantry Regiment, and got as far as the second trench. Vice-Sergeant-Major Flick of the 9th Company prevented a swing towards our sector and the enemy was driven back to its original position.

Vice-Sergeant Flick then penetrated the enemy trench during the night and took out three prisoners; likewise, Lieutenant Rittershaus brought back a Frenchman under difficult circumstances. The Fusilier Battalion cordoned off the unoccupied trenches of the 15th Regiment.

On October 20, the target of enemy fire was the Malmaison-Ferme and the Thuringian Cave. Hit after hit, hit after hit were placed on the main entrance to the cave. The mass of earth buried the entrance, but after three hours of hard work it was uncovered again.

Gradually the German artillery was completely defeated by the far superior French. The supply of ammunition also came to a standstill, since the supply routes were under the fire of long-range guns day and night. The artillery was of little help in the following large infantry attacks. The French later asked the prisoners in astonishment why the German artillery had not fired.

The French themselves wrote: "For six days and six nights our infernal fire raged, the fiercest since the beginning of the war."

The traffic light station at the battalion commander's right was destroyed by a direct hit on the afternoon of the 21st; now only the runner connection remained.

On the 22nd, II Battalion relieved Möhring at the front right. By order of the regiment, the battalion took a particularly large amount of ammunition, hand grenades and oxygen apparatus to the front. New supplies were also supplied to the 1st Battalion with great difficulty.

In the afternoon, the Chivy forest camp was shelled by heavy artillery. During this bombardment, a temporary evacuation

-- 217 --

of the camp, the regiment's commander broke his arm when he was thrown to the ground by air pressure from a grenade.

Colonel v. For more than a year, Struensee had endeavored to prepare the regiment for all tasks through strict modern training. In addition, the regiment thanks him for his skillful leadership, even in heavy combat.

The situation in the early morning of October 23, the day of the great battle, was as follows:

The regiment was in possession of the whole position, only on the right wing the 6th company turned back a little to maintain contact with the 15th regiment, which had lost its front lines. Instead of the ditches, there was only a funnel field in which riflemen's nests were formed, which kept in touch with each other. The main forces were at the height of the second ditch.

On the right was the 2nd Battalion Möhring, on the left the 1st Battalion Wild, each with 12 machine guns—as far as they hadn't already been shot to pieces. At the regimental command post, the 10th and 12th companies, as well as one made up from the fourth platoons of the 2nd Battalion, were in reserve. The 1st Battalion had been in position since October 10th, i.e. 13 days; both battalions suffered heavy casualties, including casualties.

According to prisoners, it was known that the French attack was to take place between 5 and 6 in the morning of the 23rd. All the preparations had been made, and the emergency services were ready from 4 a.m. The few batteries still capable of fighting fired waves of fire to destroy the French attacking columns.

Shortly after midnight, the heaviest enemy fire had already begun. Remarkably, there were no more gas grenades.

Everyone awaited the enemy in great tension.

The French attacked in dense lines around 630 in the morning.

The garrison of the first trench puts up a fight, but is soon overwhelmed. The garrison of the second trench held out for an hour against the enemy, who charged anew eight times, until the enemy, having broken through, appeared on the flank and rear of the neighbor on the right. He is already driving German prisoners in front of him, who the longingly waiting people at first mistook for reinforcements. Thus the standbys were already engaged in the fight farther back; the brave. Trench crew lacked the necessary backfill.

-- 218 --

[MAP]

The excellent commander of the 1st Company, Lieutenant Gläßner, manned a mortar ditch with his most loyal grenadiers. He was particularly well supported by Lieutenant Werner's machine guns, which fired cold-bloodedly under the heaviest enemy fire, and he was shot in the head here. When the machine guns were shot up, the French, who stormed the small group of the 1st Company from all sides, succeeded in overpowering the tough defenders to the end. Lieutenant Gläßner fell like a hero, just as he had fought as a brave soldier since the beginning of the war.

Besides him, Lieutenants Schäfer and Andresen died fighting bravely.

-- 219 --

During the hard struggle of the remnants of the regiment, the machine gun crews under Lieutenant Wilkens in particular distinguished themselves on this wing.

The headquarters of II Battalion lay in a deep cave. The French threw gas grenades into the entrances and air shafts; here Lieutenant Proelss was wounded. After brave resistance, the crew fell into French captivity.

On the left wing, the 2nd and 4th companies led by Captain Wilck and the 4th company Alexander threw back the enemy, who had already advanced beyond the 2nd trench, with a fresh counter-attack and continued to defend themselves there for hours until the

ammunition fired was. After Fort Malmaison, which the enemy had taken, the battalion sealed itself off. The regiment deployed two companies there to counterattack, which, pushing forward from shell hole to shell hole, brought relief for a short time. A fierce battle developed around the regiment's command post. The 10th and the combined company of the 2nd Battalion under Lieutenant Becher (Moritz) threw themselves against the enemy and initially held him up. In view of the multiple superiority they had to take cover in the dugout; here they were with one

Flamethrowers processed and had to surrender. Parts of the regimental office with typewriters and war diary also fell into enemy hands. The French officer who entered the command post sent off a letter with the message: "The proud Augusta regiment has been destroyed!" The message arrived at the divisional headquarters.

In heavy rain, at 1030 in the morning, after artillery preparations, the second major attack by the French infantry began. Immediately behind the bolt of fire, the French followed in dense masses. They struck in the flanks and rear of the battalions that had been shot up, as they fought back to the artillery defences; here the riflemen of the 1st Battalion established themselves again and inflicted heavy, bloody losses on the enemy. But when he attacked again from the heights to the right and left, the rest of the regiment retreated to Chavignon. The 2nd company still managed to shoot down a French plane that fell burning between the lines.

Due to the gap in the neighboring regiment, the road to Chavignon had also become free. French tanks now drove up on it and fired into the regiment's sector in an elevated and flanking manner. The French also mentioned this

— 220

Report: "The advance was greatly slowed down by the machine gun nests, which offered fierce resistance. It took the armored car to get to the goal."

The remnants of the regiment held out stubbornly at Chavignon until, having been surrounded on the left flank, they had to return to Bruyères. There the regiment occupied the canal position; all the scattered parts were collected and used here for the utmost resistance. The only 17-year-old Lieutenant v. Hulsen gathered the people in his platoon, had them renew the oath of allegiance to his bayonet, and didn't move from the spot.

A German counterattack undertaken in the evening was soon stopped by enemy machine gun fire.

The army report on this day, one of the most difficult in the history of the regiment, says:

"The fighting that developed south of the Oise-Aisne Canal in the morning resulted in heavy, varied fighting between the Ailette and the heights of Ostel. The enemy, who charged early in the morning against our lines, which had been destroyed by heavy fire for six days, found strong resistance and, because of heavy losses, made no progress. Only after a later push of fresh French forces from the west towards Allemant, from the south towards Chavignon, led by renewed fire preparations and supported by numerous armored cars, was it possible to break into our positions and advance to these villages. This made the intermediate positions untenable. When the troops were withdrawn from the lines tenaciously held in the front, advanced batteries had to be blown up and left to the enemy. The French pushed hard, but the enemy's thrust south of Pinon, near Vaudisson and the hard-fought Chavignon, was caught by the intervention of our reserves; the enemy was denied further progress."

The regiment's losses from 24 September to 24 October were: Killed 3 officers, 11 NCOs, 87 men; wounded 8 officers, 31 NCOs, 195 men; missing 28 officers, 153 non-commissioned officers, 913 men; gas sick 1 officer, 10 non-commissioned officers, 120 men.

The high number of prisoners shows how extensively the regiment was attacked; the attack in the front was repulsed by the strong fighting companies, but all bravery was in vain against the French masses advancing from behind. Nevertheless, the fight largely stopped after fierce resistance, as even the opponent's report admits.

-- 221 --

So here too, after four weeks of hard struggle, the regiment has done its duty as far as human strength is able.

On October 24th and 25th the situation remained unchanged. The area was under enemy fire, but the enemy had suffered too many casualties to push further.

On the evening of October 25th the regiment was relieved from this battlefield; it marched to Vaux and in the next few days to Sissonne, where it was loaded on 2 November.

The journey went to Conflans station and from there on November 4th to Bigneulles-Wald.

The staffing on the day before the major attack was as follows:

Kommandeur: Oberstlt. v. Struensee; Lt. Frhr. v. Frentz, Adj.; Oberlt. v. Bernuth (M.-G.-O.); Lt. Sühling (VB.-O.); Lt. Albanus (Ord.-O.); Lt. Winkler (Pi.-O.); Lt. Scholtz, Kurt (Gs.-O.); St.-A. Eckard; Pfarrer Hölscher. Wechselstab: Major v. Voß.

I. Bataillon: Hptm. Wilck, Lt. Nenno, Lt. Witt, Hptm. Wild, Ob.-A. Wachenfeld, Zahlm. Will.

1. Comp.: Lt. Gläßner, Manzke, Jäger (Karl),

2. Comp.: Lt. Scheffler,

3. Comp.: Lt. Engelhardt, Schwickert,

4. Comp.: Lt. Siebert, Rittershaus,

1. M.-G.-Comp.: Lt. Werner, Vogel,

1. M.-W.-Comp.: Lt. Wilkens.

II. Bataillon: Oblt. Möhring, Lt. Widera, Schranz. Ass.-Arzt Sunder-Plaßmann, Oberzahlm. Lohmann,

5. Comp.: Lt. Scheler, Schultz. Kreid,

6. Comp.: Lt. Schäfer, Becker (Moritz),

7. Comp.: Lt. Gottschalk, Jäger (Bernhard),

8. Comp.: Lt. Kuhn, Andresen.

2. M.-G.-Comp.: Lt. v. Klitzing, Schieferdecker, Pröbß, Angermann,

2. M.-W.-Comp.: Lt. Wilkens,

FuEsilier-Bataillon: Hptm. Glodkowski, Lt. Gr. v. Kielmannsegg. Reh, Dietershagen, Ass.-Arzt Hebbeling, Zahlm. Kiefner,

9. Comp.: Lt. Kienast, Kling, Faßhauer,

10. Comp.: Lt. Blömker, v. Hülsen,

11. Comp.: Lt. Gaul, Burmester,

12. Comp.: Lt. Bolles, Becker (Heinrich), Klemunt,

3. M.-G.-Comp.: Lt. v. Hillebrandt, Schäfers, Hardrat,
3. M.-W.-Comp.: Lt. May.

— 222 —

Up to this time the following officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men in the regiment had received the *Iron Cross* 1st class: 1) 2)

1914:

Major Frhr. v. Lyncker am 4. Oktober; Hptm. v. Barton gen. v. Stedman am 23. Oktober; Lt. Lammers (Clemens) am 20. November; Obstlt. v. Walther am 20. November; Oblt. v. Scheele am 8. Dezember.

1915:

Hptm. v. Franke am 27. Januar; Oblt. v. Unger am 25. Februar; V.F. Röder, 5. Comp., am 29. April; V.F. Schulz, 6. Comp., am 23. Mai; Oblt. Raabe am 30. Mai; Major Houben am 10. Juni; Oblt. v. Gerstein-Hohenstein am 21. Juni; Hptm. v. Cochenhausen am 15. September; V.F. Jensen, 6. Comp., am 5. November; Hptm. v. Unger am 19. Dezember.

1916:

Major v. Voß am 27. Januar; Hptm. Prinz zu Ysenburg am 15. Mai; Oblt. v. Bernuth am 20. Juni; Lt. Frhr. Raitz v. Frentz am 11. August; Oblt. v. d. Osten am 19. August; Oblt. Ludwig am 3. September; Hptm. v. Laer am 13. September; V.-F. Judzent, 11. Comp., am 14. September; V.-F. Borggräfe, 6. Comp., am 15. September; V. F. Hopf, 2. M.-G.-Comp., am 27. September; Lt. Sühling am 27. September; V.-F. Wienands, 4. Komp, am 11. Oktober; Oblt. Möhring am 11. Oktober; Lt. v. Klitzing am 11. Oktober; Feldw. Hoffmann, 6. Komp, am 1. November; Lt. Klein am 10. Dezember.

1917:

Hptm. Glaser am 10. Januar; Uffz. Reinisch, 8. Komp, am 26. Januar; Lt. Reuß am 26. Januar; Lt. Widera am 26. Januar; Lt. Engelhardt am 1. April; Lt. Knebel am 1. April; Obitt. v. Krosigk am 20. April; Lt. v. Spangenberg am 28. April; V. F. Tiedemann, 2. Comp., am 30. April; Uffz. Klein, 6. Comp. am 30. April; Uffz. Bruns, 10. Comp., am 30. April; Lt. Schäfer am 12. Mai; Lt. v. Hillebrandt am 12. Mai; V.-F. Hachmeister, 7. Comp., am 12. Mai; St.-A. Dr. Eckard am 27. Mai; Lt. Scholtz (Conrad) am 27. Mai; Lt. Scheler am 27. Mai; Lt. 27. Mai; V.-F. Naumann, 9. Comp., am 27. Mai; V.-F. Grube, 10. Comp., am 27. Mai; V.-F. Muff, 12. Comp., am 27. Mai; Lt. Winkler am 6. Juni; V.F. Lücke, 5. Comp., am 6. Juni; Uffz. Nilkens, 2. Comp., am 17. Juni; Lt. Kuhn am 8. Juli; Lt. Pröls am 8. Juli; Ob.-Arzt Girmindl am 8. Juli; V.F. Heinicke, 1. M.-G.-Comp., am 8. Juli; V.-F. Bieleit, 11. Komp, am 8. Juli; Gefr. Esser, 4. Comp., am 8. Juli; Lt. Stellmacher am 26. Juli; Uffz. Beder, 9. Komp, am 26. Juli; Lt. v. Wedel

— 225 —

am 2. August; Oblt. Rolle am 30. August; Lt. Georgi am 30. August; Uffz. Wätjen, 12. Comp., am 30. August; Lt. Gaul am 6. September; Lt. Nadermann am 6. September; Uffz. Thiele, 1. M.-G.-K., am 6. September; Feldw. Berkigt, 8. Komp, am 6. September; V.-F. Werner, 3. M.-G.-Comp., am 28. September; Lt. Jacobshagen am 10. Oktober.

The golden medal for bravery¹⁾ was given to Feldwebel and NCOs Röder, Judzent, Lücke, Wienands, and Bieler.

Lieutenants Reuss, Klein and Stellmacher wear the gold wounded badge.

1) Incomplete; Supplement requested!

2) Grenadiers and Fusiliers were mostly promoted at the same time.

The decisive battles of 1918.

Preparations for the great offensive.

In the St. Mihiel arch. Nov. 4, 1917-14. January 1918.

The weakened division was led to the Army Department C and from this in the section of the I. bayr. Army Corps deployed.

In the meantime, two combat battalions under Major v. Voß and Capt. Glodkowski, later Capt. Prince zu Ysenburg, and three machine gun companies.

Lieutenant Colonel Tieschowitz v. Tieschowa, hitherto head of department in the general staff of the chief of the field army, joined the Augusta regiment.

After unloading in Vigneulles forest, the march went through Vigneulles, a dilapidated and unadorned village, and then, past Heudicourt, climbed steeply up the snow-covered Côte Lorraine.

The 1st Battalion immediately replaced a Bavarian in position, the 2nd and the combat baggage marched to the Neu-Württemberg and Blümleinschlucht camps.

The section "E. III", which the regiment occupied, stretched in the forest of Ally from Fort Römerlager exclusively to the forest of Apremont, where a Landwehr division was attached. It was divided into the West and East subsections with the command posts "Kaiserzimmer" and "Griffin".

The whole ridge was a churning fortress. The defense system was set up "like a chessboard", as the popular catchphrase went. There were four ditches, but shelters almost only in the 1st and 2nd ditch; the obstacle was good only in front. Just behind the position was the "Erdwerk", an old French fortification; up to this point the detachments could march as one.

The expansion of the position left much to be desired; but the activity of the enemy was also small. The enemy's artillery fired only a few rounds a day on the sector; individual trench sections suffered from mine fire. Large cauldrons were installed in the "kitchen tunnels" in the positions, so that hot meals could be served there. While in front the tree

-- 225 --

grew was almost completely destroyed by years of artillery *** and mine fire, so that the trenches ran through deserts of rock *** and rubble, the usual Côte undergrowth had been preserved in the rear lines, so that one was there also on the days unseen by the enemy.

The position battalions—since mid-November three battalions had been formed again, two of which were in front and one at rest—set about straight away to expand. The war here took fairly constant forms: night-time obstacle work and patrolling; towards morning general calm of both opponents; the so-called "hero hours", which last until 11 a.m., during which the "envoys" of the staffs came to the front. Then a faint flare-up of artillery fire from the smaller calibers. Only in the afternoon did there come a riot with

heavy artillery and, above all, mortars. Lt. Grunow II commanded; he directed the construction of all major works, especially those in the intermediate area. Runner *** and barrage fire tests were often held. The mortars were grouped together and given specific tasks to damage the enemy.

Good patrols were made on various occasions. Lieutenant Schwickert penetrated the enemy trench and there wrestled with a large Senegalese; unfortunately he did not succeed in bringing the violently defending party with him. At the end of November the enemy attempted a major operation; after two days of very heavy mine fire, strong patrols pushed forward, but were noticed and turned away; a wounded Frenchman was taken prisoner.

During a further advance by the enemy, which was received by our vigilant riflemen and had to turn back in a hurry, Lieutenant Grunow II, who had meanwhile taken command of the 2nd Company, was killed on January 4th.

Gradually, with the further expansion of the shelters in the rear trenches, the front line could be manned more weakly and the garrison divided more deeply. The news network was expanded according to the latest principles, i. H. especially so that if one means of communication failed, there were always other ways of sending important messages. Large quantities of ammunition were stored in the position; thus there were 10,000 cartridges in each company section, 25,000 in the battalion, and 115,000 in the regiment. Each man carried 4 hand grenades, in the company section there was a reserve of 600, in the battalion 2400, in the regiment 4000 hand grenades.

— 226 —

By early November, 38 officers and 1,400 replacements had arrived, most of them from the East. The teams, who had spent the whole war in trench warfare in Poland found it difficult to get used to the new theater of war; only after weeks did they become full members of the regiment. After setting the replacement, the old company division could be restored. Hptm. Glodkowski took over the Fusilier Battalion.

The forest camp of Neu-Württemberg lay in a deep gorge and was laid out with great care, a colony of little houses and barracks hidden in the bushes; a camp road ran along the bottom of the ravine, from which innumerable stairways led up the slope. Small halls and arcades brought style to the settlement.

The Rest Battalions began training; Lessons, drills and a lot of roll calls soon restored the old order. Training courses were held on machine guns and mortars. A lot of gymnastics games also helped to awaken the old freshness in the regiment. The training in hand grenade throwing and the gunnery training were operated. The light machine guns gradually became commonplace in the companies, thanks to the zealous work of the machine gun officer at the staff of Lieutenant von Heydebrand. The gas protection devices were also carefully checked. The superiors dealt with the people as much as possible. Reconnaissance officers gave lectures on the situation. There were also cinema and theater performances and beer evenings.

Gradually that mood developed and the impetus prepared that filled the whole western army so wonderfully in the spring of 1918.

Deep snow fell around Christmas time, so that the beautiful forests offered a special attraction. The Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations took place in the usual way. Lieutenant Colonel V. Tieschowitz was with all the companies and spoke words that touched the heart. In a beautiful sermon, Pastor Hölscher spoke of Christmas as the German festival. The Grand Duchess had sent a little something for each man. The ladies of the regiment sent books with Augusta bookmarks. At New Year every officer received a small, leather-bound notebook with a picture of the now 80-year-old princess. Oblt. Bernuth went to Karlsruhe and brought the high boss an album with war pictures.

For the Lieutenant Frhrn commanded to the division. v. At the end of November, Frentz had again become Captain von Bernuth's (Felix) adjutant. The dutiful, experienced officer deputy Günther worked in the regimental office.

— 227 —

At the end of December more lively artillery and air activity was noticed at the front; From this it was concluded that French action was imminent and all measures were taken to ward it off. In particular, one secured oneself against enemy tank squadrons. In the Moroccan division on the opposite side there was probably the same concern that an attack might follow from our side, and so the fighting activity on both sides gradually increased.

Rumors soon circulated that special combat divisions were to be drawn out and trained for the forthcoming decisive battles, which of course included the 2nd Guards Division. It didn't take long for that to happen either.

On January 12th and 13th the battalions were replaced by the 402 Regiment and drove to Metz.

During the train journey, thoughts turned to home and forward to the big goal, which, for the time being only as a dark foreboding, strengthened the hope of a happy ending!

When they were unloaded, the bells rang, they were home again!

The regiment was housed in the immediate vicinity of Metz, namely the staff in Roseringen, the 1st battalion in Langenheim and Papolisheim, the 2nd battalion in Lessingen, Siegach, German and Mühlen, the fusilier battalion in Jussingen, Feste Kaiserin and Gravelotte.

At Metz. January 15 March 17, 1918.

At the end of 1917, the High Command of the Army had decided to bring the long war, which was becoming increasingly difficult to endure, especially at home due to the English starvation blockade, to a good end with one last great feat of arms. The prospects for this were favorable. Russia had been defeated, the eastern army could be used in the western theater of war. With careful preparation, one could hope for success there, too. Field Marshal V. Hindenburg writes: "I knew that the German man in the balaclava would emerge from the trenches with all his mighty wrath to end the years of agony of the defensive charge."

All principles for the attack were contained in the regulation "Battle of offensive in trench warfare". It was a question of deploying the troops in such a way that they could work with combined strength at a decisive point. After the long trench warfare, the attacking momentum of the troops had to be reawakened, but the type of attack had to be practiced in such a way that we could reach our goal with as few losses as possible. The fight itself had to be in rifle groups

-- 228 --

light machine guns, which were to be supported by the other weapons, heavy machine guns, mortars and escort batteries. The aviators also had to intervene in battle squadrons in the battle on the ground. In addition to the infantry training according to the new "training regulations for infantry troops", the artillery was used to prepare for the great storm, in cooperation with all weapons as the

attack progressed, and finally the regulation of supplies as the operations progressed. The instructions from above were appropriate; The troops also noticed this and therefore had confidence in the higher command.

The report of the American General Pershing states: "The German army in March 1918 was by far the most powerful force that the world has ever seen. In combat troops and guns it possessed a superiority: but that was of less importance than the advantage which morale, experience, training and unity of command brought to mobile warfare."

General Ludendorff was able to report to the Kaiser in February when he gave a presentation on the preparations: "The struggle in the West is an enormous military task which France and England have tried in vain for two years. It will end happily when the conduct of the war is freed from all intolerable chains, when even the last man is brought up to make a decision and is animated by the spirit that love for emperor and empire and trust in the power of military leadership and greatness of the fatherland gives. It will be a tremendous struggle, beginning in one place and continuing in another, and will take a long time."

There were daily drills in the regiment, as well as a lot of machine-gun shooting, which all officers and non-commissioned officers had to be trained on. A great mortar shooting was held at Ars. The traffic between infantry and airmen was diligently practiced. Horses and vehicles were inspected. The new attack procedure was presented to the staff officers at the leadership course in Wörth.

The battlefields around Metz were also visited. Lieutenant Colonel V. Tieschowitz gave a lecture on Gravelotte off the Point du Sour, and on the 26th of January the regiment went to St. Privat for a drill, along the same route taken by the Queen's regiment in 1870. There Captain v. Bernuth (Felix) gave a lecture on the regiment's struggles at the time; then a wreath was laid at our monument; the commander gave a speech that ended in an imperial cheer. 150 Iron Crosses were awarded to junior officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men.

-- 229 --

Kaiser's birthday was celebrated in the companies. There was half a bottle of wine and free beer for every man.

By A.K.O. from January 22nd Colonel Tieschowitz v. Tieschowa returned to the General Staff as head of department. The regiment very much regretted losing the particularly honored commander, whose concern for the well-being of each individual was felt so gratefully, after such a short time. He knew how to transfer his high, ideal conception to his subordinates. As his successor, on February 6, Colonel Frhr. Grote, previously commander of the Reserve Infantry Regiment 203.

The landscape around Metz is particularly attractive. Early in the morning there was soft hoarfrost on nature, while the most beautiful sunshine announced the coming of spring. The villages nestled on the slopes of the Moselle are clean and make a prosperous impression. Vines are being grown everywhere. The population is friendly and full of life like in the wine villages of the middle and lower Moselle. A friendly relationship with officers and men quickly developed. Happy parties were celebrated together, which made us forget the heavy pressure that lay in the world for hours.

Metz itself also attracted visitors to the city. After many months, one saw German life again, German women, ate delicious apple cakes in confectioneries on Sunday afternoons, and in the evenings went to the "Spanish Fly" in the theater or to a cinema. Here, too, many an evening passed in merry get-togethers, with dancing, singing or wine. These festivals, perhaps less appropriate to the seriousness of the time, were a welcome balance between the difficult times; they even had a certain healing power. In addition, all the happiness remained harmless, there were no riots. As early as 9 o'clock in the evening everything was closed, the crooked fortress town sank into a death-like darkness until, as almost every night, the horrid sounds of sirens, the glaring light of the searchlights and the hissing firing of the defensive cannons reported the approach of enemy planes. You could hear the gentle singing of the French engines. The main target was the large goods yard of Sablon. Damage was rarely done.

At the end of January there were often major exercises in the division. Again and again the "breakthrough" was drilled, the attack immediately behind the barrage of fire; Colonel Bruchmüller, now known to everyone, was also present again.

At the end of the training period, the troupe could probably compete with the troops that moved to France in 1914 in terms of their ability and their current intrinsic value.

— 230 —

From 14th to 16th March were roll calls in assault packs, iron portions, bulwarks and gas masks. A last horse roll call was scheduled, the fittings were checked again, the loading of the vehicles checked; everything superfluous should be turned off. But what is expendable? There was some disagreement about this; after all, 50 horseshoes and nails are at least as important as 25 hand grenades or 10 spades and pickaxes. Finally everything was arranged for the best.

March 17 was the last Sunday on German soil. The bells rang and the weather was glorious. Departure at 11 o'clock in the evening; Everywhere a warm farewell is said.

The regiment approached the coming decision eagerly and with firm confidence.

The great offensive battles in France.

The first thrust at the Scarpe.

March 18-29, 1918.

The High Command intended, in one or more surprise strikes, to force a breakthrough through the fronts of the positions in order to conduct operations into the open field.

The attack on the line Arras Cambrai St. Quentin — La Fere encountered a projecting arch which could be seized with pincers; the enemy's distribution of forces behind this front was favorable to us. If they succeeded in advancing to Amiens, the connection between the French and English battlefields would be severed.

To this end, Crown Prince Rupprecht's army group had to cut off the Englishman in the Cambrai bend and advance in the direction of Arras-Albert; the Army Group of the German Crown Prince was to fight for the crossings over the Somme and the Crozat Canal south of Péronne. Secrecy of all preparations up to the last few days remained of particular importance.

On March 18 the regiment was loaded at the Metz train stations and drove to Wallers via Sedan-Charleville-Mons. At a stop in Charleville, Chief Music Master Przywarsti played merry soldier tunes. Everyone knew that great things were about to happen that would bring the campaign to a happy end; everyone was also aware that they were faced with a difficult task, but their hearts beat happily towards the goal. From Wallers the regiment marched to Marchiennes, east of Douai, and from here on March 20th in the bright moonlight to Montigny near Douai.

— 231 —

Then March 21, 1918 dawned. What hopes pinned on that day! Every man in the army and the whole homeland watched with suspense as the brave ones started this fight. Before dawn broke, the artillery roared up. In the regiment's quarters it sounded like an uninterrupted, rising and falling rumble, from which one could clearly hear the heavy and heaviest guns. As the window panes rattled incessantly, so our hearts trembled with quiet excitement, with confident hope. Heavy fog lay over the earth until late in the morning; then the sun triumphed, and with it came the first auspicious news of victory!

The surprise was a complete success. After a massive artillery preparation, the death-defying infantry broke into the enemy's foremost positions everywhere. By evening the right wing and center had halted in front of the second enemy position; the left wing had advanced past St. Quentin far beyond expectation.

The regiment marched to Lambres and Courchelettes south of Douai on 22-23 March.

Even before Douai, one noticed now and then a very strong, short blaze of fire in the night sky, about which one was not quite clear. As the Quartermasters approached Rade Courchelettes, there was a sudden loud bang and all ten cyclists lay on the road, knocked over by the air pressure. A 28-centimeter gun, which was 100 meters from the road, had fired. Several of these giant guns were still standing nearby; they shelled Arras, which was 22 kilometers away from here. All the window panes in the quarters were shattered by the shooting down. Some of the troops had to bivouac. The activity of the airmen was very active here, just behind the front. They also visited the bivouac places at night; first they lowered fluorescent screens that stood over the lighted area, only to intervene with machine guns. Everything got restless until a Berliner, who felt disturbed when he was half asleep, turned around and shouted: "Somebody turn off the lamp!"

On March 23, Paris, the capital of the hereditary enemy, was shelled by German shells for the first time! France trembled; the whole world admired this new, almost unbelievable value of German invention. Meanwhile, on the second and third day of the battle, the right wing and center of the attacking troops had made but slow progress against the tenacious English; great successes were achieved on the left wing; Hundreds of guns, thousands of prisoners were brought in. The Somme was reached there on the 23rd.

-- 232 --

In order to get the battle on the right wing moving again, the high ground east of Arras was to be taken by the "Mars North" attack. To this end, the 2nd Guards Division in Group Vimy near Vitry prepared to advance in second line, north of Arras, towards Mont St. Eloi. The attack of the front divisions began on March 28, just before 8 am; The regiment, which had been marching through the night, advanced in the following order: Fusilier Battalion Glodowski, II Battalion Ysenburg, Mine Launcher Battalion, I Battalion Ulbrich, Accompanying Battery, Engineer Battalion, Machine Gun Sniper Battalion, Battle Post. To the right and left, hidden in barns, stood the heavy artillery, preparing for the attack, and further ahead the battle raged. Heavy enemy grenades soon howled towards them, but fortunately they bounced sideways of the road. The battalions moved forward Vitry into trenches of the second position, in which numerous dugouts were found. The last stars disappeared. a gloomy day dawned. Officers and platoon leaders compared the maps and the terrain, the men slept or talked about the coming battles. On the left the embankment of the Douai-Arras railway became visible; along it the first wounded were coming back.

Then the battalions lined up and marched forward in ranks, some on the railway embankment, some next to it. As always at the start of an offensive, Lieutenant Stellmacher was the first to be wounded, here for the fifth time! Biache was visible on the left and after a half-hour march the artillery barricade was reached, in which the regiment was distributed on both sides of the railway. The first captured Englishmen passed, still quite disturbed by our fire; her good suit was all the more noticeable. Liaison patrols were sent to the Bavarians in front. Ammunition columns drove by, wanting to fetch new ammunition. The English artillery fired only sporadically; nevertheless, things didn't seem to be progressing well in front; after initial successes, the attack met with very tenacious resistance from the English. The battalions stayed in their trenches; the field kitchens were fetched and the warm food gratefully welcomed on the cold and foggy day. The fine drizzle had made the whole area of the funnel slippery and slippery. Gradually it grew dark; night came, but without moon, a dark, cold night. At last the order was given that the regiment should advance to Vitry. It was only four kilometers by then, but the paths were soft and clogged. One regiment was marching back, another was going forward; Columns, artillery, all mixed up in this impenetrable darkness. Around 1 o'clock in the morning the regiment arrived in the

-- 233 --

Pile of rubble from Vitry. The rain had stopped, but it was very cold; so it was no wonder that the grendiere brought together everything combustible, rafters, doorposts, decking, and soon the people were sitting in the ruins of the houses around the brightly blazing fires to warm themselves and to dry their clothes.

For the next day, the 2nd Guards Division was made available to the 3rd Bavarian Army Corps to take part in the "Mars-Süd" attack.

The regiment was therefore already ready at 4 a.m. on March 29 at the south exit of Vitry and marched at night and in the rain towards the en via Sailly to Vis en Artois. The dirt roads were pathetic. As the regiment approached Vis, it began to get light; daylight revealed images of the worst destruction. Vis was reduced to rubble; the cold, dull dawn showed a sad reflection in the bare walls. From Vis we headed west on the grand road to Arras. Monchy, which had been stormed the day before, was seen lying on a steep hill. For miles only shell hole after shell hole, the vein soil shredded, the chalk rock thrown up. Near the remains of Guemappe and Wancourt, the battalions were distributed in ex-English dugouts. The entrances were, of course, on the enemy side, and the continuous rumble of gunfire came from the front only four kilometers away. Nevertheless, after the exhausting night, all the people were soon fast asleep; an "old warrior" does not let himself be disturbed by "a little cannon fire". So the day passed with waiting and sleeping.

Since the attack at Arras was only successful in a few places, it was broken off again according to the new principles before useless heavy losses were incurred. The desolate funnel terrain was too difficult a field for attack. Arras had grown over the years into an almost impregnable fortress.

For the 2nd Guards Division these days were a bad start; the regiments did not move and therefore did not work satisfactorily.

On the west bank of the Avre. March 30 — May 2, 1918.

During the night, the order suddenly came to march to the 2nd Army on the main battlefield. Here meanwhile the center had taken Albert, the left wing Montdidier, and that

-- 234 --

Attack seemed to have other chances of success; the 2nd Division of the Guard should therefore also be brought in for a thrust near Montdidier.

[MAP]

The regiment marched onto the big road via Vis on 30 March. Here four columns pushed back and forth side by side; trucks drove between them and the road was under English fire. Enemy planes also came in large squadrons and threw themselves on the defenseless victims; only through the very energetic intervention of Hauptmann v. Bermuth (Fritz) succeeded in marching through. After Vis the road cleared and the regiment soon turned south via Cagnicourt-Tronville to Beaumetz. The marks of the massive attack could still be seen everywhere; dead horses that polluted the air, and some of the dead, Germans and English, who could not yet be buried. The villages were still destroyed from the retreat in 1917; great craters in the streets which the Englishman had not filled up; but now the German road construction companies were already preparing everything. In the destroyed Beaumetz there was still a smell of gas; Scottish artillerymen lay

-- 235 --

dead beside their guns. Quarters were set up in a ravine near Beaumetz, in filthy English dugouts and barracks. It was pouring with it; the warm bean soup tasted all the better.

The next day we continued with a little sunshine. Easter Sunday! Then it crept up on most of them, would they ever hear the daffodils at home again? But the news from the front was good, and the mood was upbeat. Now the terrible region of the Battle of the Somme in 1916 began. Not a tree, not a bush, not a house—all a great riot; a desolate sight, this land of death! Le Transloy, Lesbœufs, Ginchy, Guillemont — one pile of rubble like the next. A sign saying 'This was Ginchy'. In Lesbœufs quite a large pile of rubble and on top, a little crookedly, a fallen church bell. A terrible sight at the road crossing to Longueval: a small ravine filled with dead Englishmen, horses, artillery, limbers; they were surprised by our gas. Here and there in the field a shot-up tank, a gun, sometimes a whole battery. From afar you could see the poor stumps of the once magnificent St. Pierre-Vaast forest, in which many a brave Augustaner had rested since September 1916. Everyone was quietly thinking.

Then other images appeared. A newly established German ammunition dump in full operation; the field railway was already running, columns of cars drove up to bring the heavy load to the front. Then a gigantic small English train station with a lot of material: right next to it, as usual, a prison camp for Germans. Such a camp between Maricourt and Suzanne was the regimental quarters for this Easter day. But in the distance to the west one could already see the first church tower; then the zone of death is overcome.

On Easter Monday, April 1st, the regiment marched on in a cheerful mood in glorious sunshine. The march went through Bray sur Somme, where the horses could be watered in the river at a short stop. The canal bridge at Laneuville had been blown up by the English, but a new column bridge had already been built 20 meters further. At Proart, the divisional commander, Lieutenant General v. Friedeburg the regiment. Then quarters were moved into, and the next day there was even a rest day here, and in glorious sunshine! On April 3rd the regiment reached Vauvillers in a short march, which was already very overcrowded. Here it got worse again, the next village was already under fire. In these days, from the regimental staff, Medical Officer Dr. Eckard,

-- 236 --

who, with his strict sense of duty, had managed the medical services in an exemplary manner. His place was taken by Medical Officer Dr. Charcoal burner.

The following night the order to attack the positions along the Amiens-Paris railway was given, with the 2nd Guards Division to act in the second line on the left wing of the 2nd Army (General Command 51). Everyone was hoping to finally be able to contribute their part to the great cause, and after a short sleep at 2 a.m. on April 4th, they were still standing in the deep darkness in full expectation of the battle.

The division advanced on Caix via Rosières. This village was on fire, every three minutes a heavy caliber came; there were dead and wounded. Crashed vehicles formed a knot. Finally managed to get through; the regiment then marched on Beaucourt, where it had to prepare itself in marching column to follow up. A local attack to expand the bridgehead beyond the More was to be carried out first. However, since the enemy put up a vigorous fight, the regiment had to wait east of Beaucourt in the rain and deep dirt in the open field. In the evening we went a little further, then spent the night in the forest south-east of Moreuil in the pouring rain; a cold hole and a tarpaulin over it—that was the whole night's camp.

In order to tie up enemy forces, further demonstrations were to be carried out over the next few days. The 2nd Guards Division was assigned to the General Command of the III. Army Corps attached and followed 2nd Bavarian Division fighting in Senecet Forest east of Ailly. The regiment crossed the Wore at 630 a.m. and positioned itself on the other bank south of Moreuil. The roads were so bad that machine guns and mortars had to be carried; the vehicles could not follow. The battalions dug in. Artillery fire lay all over the area, so that casualties ensued; fortunately, most of the shots were swallowed up by the wore's swampy terrain. The routes forward and to the neighbors were explored by officer patrols.

In the afternoon the regiment was placed under the 2nd Bavarian Division and received the following orders from this 630 in the evening:

"Enemy breached. Anchin-Ferme taken by the enemy. Enemy advanced via brigade command post. Regiment Augusta advances and prepares to counterattack; it will be the 4th bayr. brigade."

In response to this alarming order, the situation was first reconnoitered and it was established that the enemy had not broken through, but only broke into the front lines and through

237

counterattack was thrown again. Therefore, only the fusilier batafloon needed to be advanced into the "B-Waldchen" north of height 104.

During the advance there, which took place in complete darkness, Lieutenant v. Hillebrandt, the commander of the 3rd machine gun company, was badly wounded in the arm by a grenade.

The companies dug in about 70 meters from the edge of the forest, the battalion headquarters in the forest itself. In the morning it turned out that the place was not very happy. The very first enemy artillery shot was fired in the midst of the working orderlies of the staff. The day passed with continuous heavy fire raids. In the evening the Bavarian brigade ordered the fusilier battalion to throw out the French who had ensconced themselves in the southern tip of the Senecat forest opposite. The storm was scheduled for the next morning. During the demonstration of the field kitchens, the accident happened that all five were caught by a grenade in a ravine near Moreuil. Of the regular sergeants, the loyal sergeants Schüppler (10th company) and Sommerfeld (3rd machine gun company) met heroic deaths; nothing was found of their bodies. Sergeant Christensen (12th Company) was badly wounded. Half of the kitchen crews were also dead or wounded. Four field kitchens were shot up, eight horses dead. This was sad news for the starving battalion. The night was pitch black, with the usual rain; the mood was therefore quite depressed.

The next day the regiment received orders to move the other two battalions to the "B-Grosse" in order to counterattack in the Senecat-Forest in the event of an enemy attack. Already the march there through the zone of fighting artillery brought casualties.

The regimental staff lay in a hollow between the "Als" and "B" groves; The battalions dug in to the right and left of it, I. and Fusiliers in the front, the II. was to support the imminent attack by firing diagonally from behind.

Sunday April 7 was a difficult day for the regiment.

It was just beginning to get light when the two front battalions began to charge without artillery preparation. It went almost silently over the first line of Bayern and about 200 meters beyond. At this moment, murderous infantry, machine gun and artillery fire began against the 1st Battalion, so that it was initially not possible to advance any further. As it turned out later, the French had

-- 238 --

just about to be relieved, so that their lines were doubly started. The Fusilier Battalion came upon a broad clearing; as the first wave emerged from the sheltering forest, violent fire began. The first wave marched on, the company commanders in front; but in a few moments the casualties in the bare clearing were so great that further advance was impossible. Fire was taken up, but the riflemen lying on the flat ground were at a disadvantage to the French, who were engaged in the forest; those not lucky enough to find cover in a shell hole fell victim to the raging infantry *** and machine gun fire. The heavy machine guns of the German rear lines now fired on the edge of the clearing, bringing some relief. But the attackers were stuck; In addition, the 1st and Fusilier Battalions formed an angle to each other and were surrounded by the enemy. Connections were not available, neighbors did not participate; the Bavarians had withdrawn. And now all hell broke loose! The whole forest was gradually being fired upon by the French artillery. Lieutenants Bessrich and Warkentin fell in this heavy battle; Captain Glodkowiński was wounded. A grenade hit a wooden hut in which the dressing station was set up; she tore up the stretcher bearers and the wounded and killed the intrepid chief physician Dr. Wachenfeld in the middle of his job, who had only recently returned to the regiment after being taken prisoner by the French.

By noon half the brave strikers had been killed or wounded; crawling back was not possible; it meant holding out until dark. A new artillery preparation of our own, which began in the afternoon, hit the middle of our own ranks. The confused grenadiers and fusiliers ran through the forest until they could be reunited at the eastern edge of the forest. Simultaneously, enemy fire pounded through the forest, where trees fell, branches cracked, shells smashed from front and back, and machine-gun shells whistled. Even this magnificent forest, which was still undestroyed in the morning, was doomed to destruction.

The 2nd Battalion, which had been pushed up to provide support, came to a halt under flanking machine gun fire after the first jumps.

As dusk approached, the artillery fire subsided, and it gradually became dead quiet. The line was laid more favorably at the front, and connections were restored everywhere. The dead and badly wounded were a terrible sight; the stretcher-bearers did their heavy duty with self-sacrifice. The 10th Company had suffered the most; their leader, Lieutenant

-- 239 --

Kremers was last seen falling, far ahead of his company, into a shell hole just outside a French blockhouse; his combat walkers had fallen trying to help him. During the night it was possible to provide the small remnants of the companies with at least bread and coffee.

At dawn the northern half, i.e. mainly 1st Battalion, was relieved. The southern part was divided into two sections; Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Fritz), the left captain Prince zu Ysenburg. These new sections eliminated reserves and established bases in the rear area. During the day there was again heavy fire on the front line, the rear area and the wooded areas. Crews and staffs remained in their little burrows and held out with tenacious manly courage. Lieutenant Stolla's legs were torn off by a shell; on the way to the hospital he died singing a sacred song.

It was not until the night of April 8th to 9th that the 2nd and Fusilier Battalions were replaced by Westphalian units. All were overwhelmed by overexertion and mortal distress; exhausted and dull, the riders staggered back. In 48 hours the regiment had lost 20 officers and 600 men; the losses of the 10th company alone amounted to 85 fusiliers, including 22 dead.

The attack had encountered a large, continuous line of defense along the whole front. The enemy recognized what was at stake and threw all the forces they could spare into the fray in wild mass attacks. The weather was also unfavorable to us; with the continued downpours, the clay soil became almost impassable. So the command had to decide to break off the offensive at this point in order to shake the enemy front with new partial blows.

The detached regiment was housed in Fresnoy and Plessier. On April 10, 150 Iron Crosses II. and two I. Class were awarded. The division commander, Lieutenant General v. Friedeburg, expressed his appreciation for the regiment and concluded with the words: "The magnificent deeds in the Senecat forest will not be forgotten by the Augusta regiment!" But the regiment did not have the necessary peace and quiet in its quarters. Enemy artillery fire made it necessary to deploy horses and vehicles outside the villages. Losses also occurred among the teams. The French airmen were very troublesome; on April 12, the division doctor, senior staff doctor Dr. Nicolai, the regimental doctor who had been loyal to him for many years during peacetime, was killed by an aerial bomb in his quarters.

— 240

On April 12, the regiment, this time in association with the 2nd Guards Division, was deployed again for a few days. It was advanced over the Avre crossings and lay with the regimental staff on the Morisel-Braches road, with the 1st Battalion Glaser on standby east of Mailly, and with the 2nd Battalion Ysenburg between Mailly and Thory. The front line consisted mainly of foxholes. All parts of the regiment suffered from the enemy's constant fire. Likewise, his superiority in airmen made itself unpleasantly felt; then came the not-

so-popular "chain bombs," always thousands of bombs at once. The Rest Battalion was in tents near Frésnoy. The horses in particular suffered from the fact that they hadn't seen a warm stable for months.

The front at this point was set up entirely for defense. The forces were structured in depth to avoid casualties. Only light machine guns with few people remained in advance; everything else was also grouped around "clinging points".

The Mailly Thory position was very unfavorable and did the regiment little good. Achievements were unobtainable except on patrol. On April 24, Lieutenant Zogeiser and Lieutenant Steinfatt, with a patrol of the II Battalion, got a Frenchman out of his hole alive by the collar; The next day, Lieutenant Zogeiser received the Iron Cross, First Class. Everyone involved immediately went on vacation. Lieutenant Albanus had been wounded shortly before.

The piece of forest in front of the regiment's front was baptized "Augusta Grove". The order to take this grove could no longer be carried out, since on May 1st the regiment began to change. On May 2nd, a heavy enemy patrol thrust met the last night details of the 6th Company; Lieutenant Schmidt and a few people were taken prisoner through no fault of their own.

In the stage area near Landrecies.

May 8-29, 1918.

On May 3rd the regiment was assembled at Boudoir and Rouvroy, and from here marched in the 2nd Division of the Guard via Croix-Etreillers-St. Quentin. This once thriving city looked desolate. Not a single house was intact, rubble lay everywhere, even the magnificent cathedral had been reduced to ruins by their own countrymen.

The blooming area behind it was all the more touching. Nature revived, the birds chirped; the battle

-- 241 --

The noise of the roof faded more and more, until at last there was complete silence, an enchanting pleasure!

The march continued via Fonsomme-Molain to Prides south of Landrecies, where the whole regiment was billeted. Prisches is a stately village with many orchards. The Panjes—this honorific name, originally from the East, had been transferred to the French inhabitants—were very trusting.

Upon arrival, one day before Ascension Day, officers and men could bathe, sleep late, get dressed, and then celebrate the holiday rejuvenated.

The recovery period lasted three weeks. A replacement arrived again, with which service was diligently done. Lieutenant Jacobshagen led a course for group *** and platoon leaders. Captain Prince of Ysenburg, who had remained loyal to the regiment since 1914, fell ill. For him, Hauptmann v. Bernuth (Felix) II Battalion; Lieutenant Frr. Rais v. Frentz in turn became his successor as regimental adjutant.

When the weather was nice, the companies recovered quickly. The Pentecost festival could be celebrated in glorious weather. The mood of the teams was good, and the people returning from vacation were all cheerful and in good spirits.

On May 22nd, the Franz regiment held an exercise in the presence of Field Marshal v. Hindenburg instead. The officers of the regiment drove to the practice in trucks as spectators. The Marshal looked very fresh, and spoke in simple, pithy words of his confidence and love for the troops, and concluded: "It is a great pleasure for me to be able to attend the exercise of the division today, a division of the guards, which I am in belonged to at a young age and to which I have the honor to belong again today in old age. I saw today that the old fresh attacking spirit has been preserved. Let's never forget the old Prussian forward; but I don't need to remind you of that!"

On May 27th there was a big team party, the people were in a fabulous mood. On that day a telegram arrived that the 7th Army's attack was progressing well and that the 2nd Guards Division was to be on the alert.

The Battle of Soissons and Reims. June 1-14, 1918 The next major battle was to occupy the French so much that they could no longer help their English allies. The push was to be via Soissons in the direction of Paris